

Matrix of Meanings of the Book of Changes

DCB

JUDGMENT			
未	wei4	7114	Before Crossing. Success.
濟	ji4	0459	Not yet, before. The eight of the twelve Ford, cross a stream at a shallow place; complete a task, fulfill, consummate; increase; help.
亨	heng1	2099	Not yet, before. The eight of the twelve Ford, cross a stream at a shallow place; complete a task, fulfill, consummate; increase; help.
小	xiao3	2605	Success, prevalence, smooth progress, growth, consummate, triumph; pervade; offering, sacrifice.
狐	hu2	2185	Small, insignificant, common, humble, mediocre; diminish, belittle.
汔	qi4	8006	Fox, foxes.
濟	ji4	0459	Almost, nearly; water drying up, dried up.
濡	ru2	3149	Ford, cross a stream at a shallow place; complete a task, fulfill, consummate; increase; help.
其	qi2	0525	Moist, soak, immerse, wet.
尾	wei3	7109	Their, his, its, the, this, that. A demonstrative and possessive pronoun.
无	wu2	7173	Tail, rear, back, behind, the end; last.
攸	you1	7519	No, not, negative; without, does not possess, not have.
攸	li4	3867	Goal, direction, destination, objective; distant, far away; a place; that which, whereby, thereby, for which; mark of the passive voice.
			Favorable, lucky, advantageous, profitable, beneficial; thriving, harvesting, sharp, sharp witted.



Matrix of Meanings of the Book of Changes

DCB

© and translation 2024 by Daniel C. Bernardo



All rights reserved under International
and Pan-American Copyright Conventions.

ISBN:978-1-7390445-9-6

Preface

This book is aimed at those who already know the *Book of Changes* and wish to better understand its original message. The Chinese characters or sinograms that were used to write the *Yijing*, have multiple meanings that cannot be fully covered when translated into a Western language, because inevitably their range of meanings is truncated. Although these limitations of *Yijing* translations cannot be avoided, this book offers English-speaking readers a tool that will allow them to understand more deeply the many possible meanings that the *Yijing* sentences suggest.

This *Yijing* translation includes: **The Judgment** (*GuaCi*), **The Image** (*DaXiang*) and the comments assigned to the lines of the hexagrams (*YaoCi*), but instead of adding our own interpretation to them, we offer tables of meanings of the sinograms, which allow readers to take our translation only as a point of reference. Readers will thus be able, by combining the multiple meanings of the sinograms in different ways, to better appreciate the subtle nuances of meaning of the *Yijing* sentences, as well as forming alternative readings of the texts.

We display each *Yijing* sentence in a table, or matrix of meanings, which is read from top to bottom, just as traditional Chinese texts. Each line of the table shows the meaning of a sinogram, and is divided into four columns: the first shows the sinogram; the second its pronunciation, using the *PinYin* romanization system; the third its number in Mathews' Chinese-English dictionary and the fourth its range of meanings.

In preparing this book we follow the classical interpretation of the *Yijing* text, as it has been read from the *Han* to the *Qing* dynasty. The original text used for this translation is the *Zhouyi Zhezong*, "Balanced Commentaries on the

ZhouYi,” published in 1715 under the patronage of the *Qing* dynasty. It is the same text used by Richard Wilhelm and many other Sinologists as the basis of their translations.

PinYin uses four tones to indicate the pronunciation of each syllable, indicating them either with different accents or with numbers, as in this book. The appendix on *PinYin Pronunciation* has more information on this topic.

Because this book is not aimed at those who are just starting out with the *Book of Changes*, but rather at those who are already familiar with it, we do not indicate how to consult the *Yijing* nor do we add any other additional material, except for a *Concordance* that allows readers to study the repetitions of different sinograms throughout the book, according to their corresponding number in Mathews’ dictionary.

THE 64 HEXAGRAMS

1 乾 *qian* – The Creative /

Activity / Dynamic Force



THE JUDGMENT

Outstanding success. The determination is favorable.

乾	qian2	3233	Spirit power, creative, force, dynamic, strong, vigor, constant, heaven, heavenly generative principle (male), father, sovereign, power above the human, <i>yang</i> power, active, vigorous appearance.
元	yuan2	7707	Outstanding, greatest, sublime, supreme, greatest, very great, grand; source, beginning, cause, first or paramount, fundamentality; head, chief; used as a superlative.
亨	heng1	2099	Success, prevalence, smooth progress, growth, consummate, triumph; pervade; offering, sacrifice.
利	li4	3867	Favorable, lucky, advantageous, profitable, beneficial, furthering, harvesting; sharp, sharp witted.
貞	zhen1	0346	Perseverance, persistence, determination, steadiness, firmness; straight, correct, verified, certain; pure, loyal. Its original meaning was “to determine an uncertain matter through divination”.

THE IMAGE

Heaven action is strong and dynamic.

Thus the noble never ceases to strengthen himself.

天	tian1	6361	Heaven, firmament, the sky, cosmos; celestial, divine, power above the human.
行	xing2	2754	Move, go, advance, act, do.
健	jian4	0854	Constant, tenacious, continuous; strong, healthy, dynamic.
君	jun1	1715	Noble, prince, aristocrat, lord, chief, gentleman; honorable, a highly principled person, superior man. Most times, this character appears alongside another one, forming the word <i>JunZi</i> , whose original meaning was “son of a prince or ruler”: 君子.

子	zi3	6939	Child, son or daughter, offspring; suffix; bride, wife; gentleman, officer, master, prince; young lady; the first of the <i>Earthly Branches</i> .
以	yi3	2932	Thus, in that way, by means of, with, for; instrument, medium, method, use (of), way (to).
自	zi4	6960	From, origin, source, cause, reason; oneself, yourself.
彊	qiang2	0668	Strong, stubborn, uncompromising, violent, fierce, demanding, coercive, dominant.
不	bu4	5379	No, not, negative prefix; without, none, nothing, will not, need not, will not be.
息	xi1	2495	Rest, pause; breathe, breathing-spell, take breath, enjoy the rest, well-being, prosper.

Nine at the beginning

Submerged dragon. Do not act.

潛	qian2	0918	Submerged, hidden (below water); to secret oneself, concealed, to retire.
龍	long2	4258	Dragon, powerful force that surges from the waters, associated with rain, floods, heaven, the trigram ䷄ and the hexagram 1.
勿	wu4	7208	Do not, no. Negative imperative.
用	yong4	7567	Use, apply, put to use, apply the oracle to real world situations; hereby, thereby.

Nine in the second place

Dragon in the field. It is favorable to see the great man.

見	jian4	0860	See, observe, look at, to be seen; cause to appear; be exposed to, display, reveal; interview, visit or call on, meet.
龍	long2	4258	Dragon, powerful force that surges from the waters, associated with rain, floods, heaven, the trigram ䷄ and the hexagram 1.
在	zai4	6657	Be at, at, in, on, within, be present; to lie in, depend upon, involved with; be living, dwell, located in.
田	tian2	6362	Field, cultivated land; hunt. The character is the picture of a cultivated field, divided in four sectors.
利	li4	3867	Favorable, lucky, advantageous, profitable, beneficial, furthering, harvesting; sharp, sharp witted.

見	jian4	0860	See, observe, look at, to be seen; cause to appear; be exposed to, display, reveal; interview, visit or call on, meet.
大	da4	5943	Big, great, tall; excessive, arrogant; spread out and reach everywhere.
人	ren2	3097	Man, person(s); people; others; human being, individual.

Nine in the third place

The noble is diligent without pause throughout the day.
At night he is cautious, as if in danger. No defect.

君	jun1	1715	Noble, prince, aristocrat, lord, chief, gentleman; honorable, a highly principled person, superior man. Most times, this character appears alongside another one, forming the word <i>JunZi</i> , whose original meaning was “son of a prince or ruler”: 君子.
子	zi3	6939	Child, son or daughter, offspring; suffix; bride, wife; gentleman, officer, master, prince; young lady; the first of the <i>Earthly Branches</i> .
終	zhong1	1500	End, finish, complete; for ever; end of a cycle; carried to conclusion, consummation, closure; death. The original meaning was: tied-off end of a thread.
日	ri4	3124	Sun, day, daylight, daytime; daily.
乾	qian2	3233	Spirit power, creative, force, dynamic, strong, vigor, constant, heaven, heavenly generative principle (male), father, sovereign, power above the human, <i>yang</i> power, active, vigorous appearance. Its duplication is usually interpreted as “diligent, vigorous”, although some say it means “sad and fearful”.
乾	qian2	3233	
夕	xi4	2485	Nightfall, evening, twilight, dark. Ancient representations in oracular bone, show clearly the crescent moon.
惕	ti4	6263	Wary, cautious, alert, alarmed; fear, respect, to stand in awe of.
若	ruo4	3126	Like, just as, to be like; agree, conform to; approve; concordant; compliant.
厲	li4	3906	Danger, threat; oppressive, cruel, wicked, brutal, harsh; sickness, malevolent devil; grind, polish, sharpen; discipline.
无	wu2	7173	No, not, negative; without, does not possess, not have.
咎	jiu4	1192	Fault, blame, mistake, wrong; inauspicious; misfortune, bad luck, calamity; reproach, censure.

Nine in the fourth place

He hesitates before jumping over the chasm. No defect.

或	huo4	2402	Perhaps, possibly, if, by chance; doubtful, uncertain; some, someone, something, sometime.
躍	yue4	7504	Leap, jump; shamanic dance of flight, a rite of passage.
在	zai4	6657	Be at, at, in, on, within, be present; to lie in, depend upon, involved with; be living, dwell, located in.
淵	yuan1	7723	A deep, an abyss, deep waters, a chasm with a whirlpool in its depths.
无	wu2	7173	No, not, negative; without, does not possess, not have.
咎	jiu4	1192	Fault, blame, mistake, wrong; inauspicious; misfortune, bad luck, calamity; reproach, censure.

Nine in the fifth place

Dragon flying in the sky. It is favorable to see the great man.

飛	fei1	1850	Fly, flying, soaring; go quickly.
龍	long2	4258	Dragon, powerful force that surges from the waters, associated with rain, floods, heaven, the trigram ䷄ and the hexagram 1.
在	zai4	6657	Be at, at, in, on, within, be present; to lie in, depend upon, involved with; be living, dwell, located in.
天	tian1	6361	Heaven, firmament, the sky, cosmos; celestial, divine, power above the human.
利	li4	3867	Favorable, lucky, advantageous, profitable, beneficial, furthering, harvesting; sharp, sharp witted.
見	jian4	0860	See, observe, look at, to be seen; cause to appear; be exposed to, display, reveal; interview, visit or call on, meet.
大	da4	5943	Big, great, tall; excessive, arrogant; spread out and reach everywhere.
人	ren2	3097	Man, person(s); people; others; human being, individual.

Nine at the top

Arrogant dragon. There will be occasion for repentance.

亢	kang4	3273	Arrogant, haughty, overbearing, excessive, unbending; protect, defend, obstruct; gully (Kunst).
龍	long2	4258	Dragon, powerful force that surges from the waters, associated with rain, floods, heaven, the trigram ䷄ and the hexagram 1.

有	you3	7533	Have, possession, there be, there is.
悔	hui3	2336	Repent, regret, contrition; trouble. This word indicates both an objective situation and a subjective reaction to such circumstance.

When all the lines are nines

A group of dragons without heads. Auspicious.

見	jian4	0860	See, observe, look at, to be seen; cause to appear; be exposed to, display, reveal; interview, visit or call on, meet.
羣	qun2	1737	Group, herd, flock, crowd, host, multitude, congregation.
龍	long2	4258	Dragon, powerful force that surges from the waters, associated with rain, floods, heaven, the trigram  and the hexagram 1.
无	wu2	7173	No, not, negative; without, does not possess, not have.
首	shou3	5839	Head; foremost, first; leader, chief.
吉	ji2	0476	Good fortune, auspicious, promising, fortunate, lucky, advantageous, happiness, good auspices. It is the only single character meaning good luck in the <i>Yijing</i> .

2 坤 *kun* – The Receptive



THE JUDGMENT

The Receptive. Outstanding success favorable for the determination of a mare. If the noble takes the lead he goes astray, but if he follows, he finds a master. It is favorable to find friends in the west and south, avoid friends in the east and north. A quiet determination is auspicious.

坤	kun1	3684	Earth, receptive; compliance; matter, field; feminine, mother.
元	yuan2	7707	Outstanding, greatest, sublime, supreme, greatest, very great, grand; source, beginning, cause, first or paramount, fundamentality; head, chief; used as a superlative.
亨	heng1	2099	Success, prevalence, smooth progress, growth, consummate, triumph; pervade; offering, sacrifice.
利	li4	3867	Favorable, lucky, advantageous, profitable, beneficial, furthering, harvesting; sharp, sharp witted.
牝	pin4	5280	Female (used for farm animals and birds), female sexual organs, cow.
馬	ma3	4310	Horse.
之	zhi1	0935	Personal pronoun, he she, it; this, that, these, etc.; often used as a possessive.
貞	zhen1	0346	Perseverance, persistence, determination, steadiness, firmness; straight, correct, verified, certain; pure, loyal. Its original meaning was “to determine an uncertain matter through divination”.
君	jun1	1715	Noble, prince, aristocrat, lord, chief, gentleman; honorable, a highly principled person, superior man. Most times, this character appears alongside another one, forming the word <i>JunZi</i> , whose original meaning was “son of a prince or ruler”: 君子.
子	zi3	6939	Child, son or daughter, offspring; suffix; bride, wife; gentleman, officer, master, prince; young lady; the first of the <i>Earthly Branches</i> .
有	you3	7533	Have, possession, there be, there is.

攸	you1	7519	Goal, direction, destination, objective; distant, far away; a place; that which, whereby, thereby, for which; mark of the passive voice.
往	wang3	7050	Go, to go to, go forward, go towards; depart, bygone, former. 攸往: have a place to go; have a goal.
先	xian1	2702	Before, first, foremost, in front, lead.
迷	mi2	4450	Lose the way, go astray; miss, error; delude, infatuation.
後	hou4	2143	Later, behind, rear, afterward, come after; follow; descendants, successor.
得	de2	6161	Get, obtain, gain; reach, achieve; can; attain the desired thing.
主	zhu3	1336	Master, lord, chief; host, innkeeper.
利	li4	3867	Favorable, lucky, advantageous, profitable, beneficial, furthering, harvesting; sharp, sharp witted.
西	xi1	2460	The West, western. Related to the autumn.
南	nan2	4620	The South. The region associated with Summer, fire, work in community and vegetation.
得	de2	6161	Get, obtain, gain; reach, achieve; can; attain the desired thing.
朋	peng2	5054	Friend, companion, pair, equal, comrade; a string of cowries (small shiny shells used as coins in ancient China).
東	dong1	6605	The East.
北	bei3	4974	The North. The character depicts two persons standing, back to back. In China, the north has traditionally been considered the “back side”. Maps shown the south on top and compasses pointed south.
喪	sang4	5429	Lose, let drop, disappear, destroy, perish, mourning, burial.
朋	peng2	5054	Friend, companion, pair, equal, comrade; a string of cowries (small shiny shells used as coins in ancient China).
安	an1	0026	Quiet, at peace, calm; tranquility, safety, security; settled, comfort, contentment.
貞	zhen1	0346	Perseverance, persistence, determination, steadiness, firmness; straight, correct, verified, certain; pure, loyal. Its original meaning was “to determine an uncertain matter through divination”.
吉	ji2	0476	Good fortune, auspicious, promising, fortunate, lucky, advantageous, happiness, good auspices. It is the only single character meaning good luck in the <i>Yijing</i> .

THE IMAGE

The Earth condition is receptive obedience. Thus the noble, who has a munificent character, sustains all living creatures.

地	di4	6198	Earth, soil, ground.
勢	shi4	5799	Power, capacity, potency, force, authority, influence; aspect, circumstances, condition.
坤	kun1	3684	Earth, receptive; compliance; matter, field; feminine, mother.
君	jun1	1715	Noble, prince, aristocrat, lord, chief, gentleman; honorable, a highly principled person, superior man. Most times, this character appears alongside another one, forming the word <i>JunZi</i> , whose original meaning was “son of a prince or ruler”: 君子.
子	zi3	6939	Child, son or daughter, offspring; suffix; bride, wife; gentleman, officer, master, prince; young lady; the first of the <i>Earthly Branches</i> .
以	yi3	2932	Thus, in that way, by means of, with, for; instrument, medium, method, use (of), way (to).
厚	hou4	2147	Munificent, generous, liberal; ample, tolerant; substantial, thick, large.
德	de2	6162	Virtue, spiritual power, moral integrity; quality, nature, aptitude, ability, character.
載	zai4	6653	Transport, carry, load, bear; contain, sustain; load a vessel or cart, conveyance.
物	wu4	7209	Thing/s, being/s, creature/s; substance, the physical world, all living things; others.

Six at the beginning

Walking on hoarfrost one reaches hard ice.

履	lu3	3893	Step on, treading, track, walk or follow a trail or way; footwear, shoes; conduct, behavior; ceremonies.
霜	sh-uang1	5919	Frost, hoarfrost. 履霜: a) the coming winter; signs of decay; b) an approaching marriage; c) ceremonial walking on hoarfrost for the autumnal sacrifices.
堅	jian1	0825	Solid, firm, strong, hard, resolute, obstinate; durable, hardened, solidified.
冰	bing1	5283	Ice.
至	zhi4	0982	Arrive, culminate, reach the highest point, utmost, superlative.

Six in the second place

Right, square and large, inexperienced.
But nothing will not be favorable.

直	zhi2	1006	Straight, direct, outspoken, honorable.
方	fang1	1802	Square, squarely, directly, straightforward, honest; a place, a region; on all sides; direction, trend, method; suddenly, quick, definite; take a place, occupy; sacrifice to the spirits of the four quarters.
大	da4	5943	Big, great, tall; excessive, arrogant; spread out and reach everywhere.
不	bu4	5379	No, not, negative prefix; without, none, nothing, will not, need not, will not be.
習	xi2	2499	Double, duplicate; repeated, repeatedly; practice, exercise, rehearsal, learning; to practice flying (young birds learning to fly flapping its wings).
无	wu2	7173	No, not, negative; without, does not possess, not have.
不	bu4	5379	No, not, negative prefix; without, none, nothing, will not, need not, will not be.
利	li4	3867	Favorable, lucky, advantageous, profitable, beneficial, furthering, harvesting; sharp, sharp witted.

Six in the third place

Hidden brilliance; can be determined. If you're still in the service of a King you will not have achievements, but will carry to conclusion.

含	han2	2017	Hidden, hold in the mouth; contain, restrain, tolerate.
章	zhang1	0182	Brilliance, splendor, refinement, distinction; ornament, emblem of distinction, jade tablet; amulet. Its short form, with the jade radical means "jade baton".
可	ke3	3381	Can, able, may; permit, allow; satisfactory, proper, suitable.
貞	zhen1	0346	Perseverance, persistence, determination, steadiness, firmness; straight, correct, verified, certain; pure, loyal. Its original meaning was "to determine an uncertain matter through divination".
或	huo4	2402	Perhaps, possibly, if, by chance; doubtful, uncertain; some, someone, something, sometime.
從	cong2	6919	Follow (somebody or a way or doctrine), adhere, obey, pursue; follower attendant; attend to business; from, by, since, whence, through.

王	wang2	7037	King, prince, sovereign, ruler.
事	shi4	5787	Serve, service; affairs, business, matters.
无	wu2	7173	No, not, negative; without, does not possess, not have.
成	cheng2	0379	Accomplish, achieve, finish, complete a task, fulfill; completed, perfect, fully developed, mature; peace making.
有	you3	7533	Have, possession, there be, there is.
終	zhong1	1500	End, finish, complete; for ever; end of a cycle; carried to conclusion, consummation, closure; death. The original meaning was: tied-off end of a thread.

Six in the fourth place

A tied up bag. No defect, no praise.

括	kuo4	3519	Tie, tied up, closed; bring together; include, embrace.
囊	nang2	4627	Sack, bag, pouch.
无	wu2	7173	No, not, negative; without, does not possess, not have.
咎	jiu4	1192	Fault, blame, mistake, wrong; inauspicious; misfortune, bad luck, calamity; reproach, censure.
无	wu2	7173	No, not, negative; without, does not possess, not have.
譽	yu4	7617	Fame, renown, reputation, honor, honored, praised.

Six in the fifth place

Yellow lower garment. There will be outstanding happiness.

黄	huang2	2297	Yellow, yellow-brown; color of the soil in central China. In the <i>Yijing</i> the yellow color is always favorable, it is the color of the middle and the moderation and it was the imperial color since the <i>Han</i> dynasty.
裳	chang2	5671	Lower garment, skirt, clothing, garment used from the waist down worn by both men and women; ceremonial garment.
元	yuan2	7707	Outstanding, greatest, sublime, supreme, greatest, very great, grand; source, beginning, cause, first or paramount, fundamentality; head, chief; used as a superlative.
吉	ji2	0476	Good fortune, auspicious, promising, fortunate, lucky, advantageous, happiness, good auspices. It is the only single character meaning good luck in the <i>Yijing</i> .

Six at the top

Dragons fight in the open country. His blood is black and yellow.

龍	long2	4258	Dragon, powerful force that surges from the waters, associated with rain, floods, heaven, the trigram ☰ and the hexagram 1.
戰	zhan4	0147	Battle, struggle, fight, war, combat; hostilities.
于	yu2	7592	At, to, in, into, on, from, by, go, go to, move towards, proceed, be.
野	ye3	7314	Meadow, open country, countryside, fields, wilderness.
其	qi2	0525	Their, his, its, the; this, that. A demonstrative and possessive pronoun.
血	xue4	2901	Blood, bleeding. Its ancient form shows a sacrificial vessel with its content.
玄	xuan2	2881	Black, dark, blue-black; deep, profound. Originally meant a dyed thread of rope.
黃	huang2	2297	Yellow, yellow-brown; color of the soil in central China. In the <i>Yijing</i> the yellow color is always favorable, it is the color of the middle and the moderation and it was the imperial color since the <i>Han</i> dynasty.

When all the lines are sixes

Long term determination is favorable.

利	li4	3867	Favorable, lucky, advantageous, profitable, beneficial, furthering, harvesting; sharp, sharp witted.
永	yong3	7589	For a long time, constant, permanent, everlasting; prolong; distant, far reaching.
貞	zhen1	0346	Perseverance, persistence, determination, steadiness, firmness; straight, correct, verified, certain; pure, loyal. Its original meaning was “to determine an uncertain matter through divination”.